

## STUDENTS SHARE THE ART OF RECYCLING

We all know that recycling plays a major role in protecting our environment, but did you know it can also be used to create unique art? Victorville students certainly do!

As part of the City of Victorville's annual November *Recycle Week*, local students from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade got the opportunity to show off their knowledge of recycling in a variety creative ways, while competing for cash prizes.

Some students created sculptures entirely from recycled materials. We have around 100 of them currently on display for public viewing in City Hall.

Younger students drew posters, and others took photos depicting a recycling theme. This year, students were also invited to produce a YouTube video as a group project.

"The idea behind this event is to encourage recycling at an early age," said Dana Armstrong, Solid Waste Manager for the City of Victorville. "The goal is to have these young people

develop a lifelong recycling habit."

The *Recycle Week* program also offers opportunities for schools to earn points toward cash prizes, with the total point winner receiving \$1000 and the "traveling trophy," currently held by Morgan Kincaid Preparatory School.

Points are assigned to each activity, which can include an in-class recycling presentation, a recycling assembly, or a tour of the Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). They can form a team to participate in the Victorville Community Cleanup Day, attend the Shred-Fest, create a campus recycling plan incorporating blue recycle containers, or compete in the "CRV" Bottle & Can Drive and Newspaper Collection Contest. Schools can also sign up to compete in the National Recycle-Bowl Competition, and/or the USAgain America Recycles Day Textile Recycling Challenge.

Since the program began in 2007, approximately 450 sculptures and 6,600



*Over 100 sculptures are on display in City Hall*

posters have been submitted. Schools have held 315 in-class presentations reaching 13,000 students, 60 assemblies reaching 14,000, and 75 tours of the MRF involving more than 4,500 students. The collection drives have brought in over 2,500 lbs. of CRV materials and 6,000 lbs. of newspapers.

Winners will be announced during the first Victorville City Council meeting in January 2014. Afterwards, we will share that information, along with photos of the winning projects.

## COLD WEATHER HAS ARRIVED—SO WINTERIZE

Victorville Water District customers are encouraged to make preparations now to prevent water leaks and ice hazards.

- When going away, even for a few days, leave the heat on in your home to no lower than 55 degrees and open kitchen and bathroom cabinets so that warm air can circulate around pipes. Ask someone to check on your home, and be sure to show them where the main water shut-off valve is.
- Insulate outside faucets, above ground pipes, and hose bibs to prevent leaks due to freezing. Use preformed foam, or rags covered with plastic to insulate pipes.
- It's time to turn off or reduce irrigation. Most plants go dormant in low temperatures (below 65 degrees F) so don't require much water. Turning off the irrigation controller and valves also prevents broken pipes and water leaks due to damage from freezing temperatures.
- Direct sprinklers toward landscape, not walkways. This not only prevents water waste, but also those nasty ice and slipping hazards.
- Apply any needed irrigation water slowly, so the soil can absorb it. Stop watering if water begins to run off. This water-efficient method can be programmed into your automated sprinkler timer by reducing run times and adding more start times.

Water conservation specialists offer free home water check-ups for Victorville homeowners, businesses, schools, churches, etc. Call now to schedule an appointment at 1-866-955-4426.

## IT'S TREE LIGHTING TIME



Don't miss the Tree Lighting Festival at Victorville City Hall on Wednesday, December 4, starting at 6:00 p.m.

The festival will include many merchandise and food vendors, as well as singing performances from The Hi Country Harmonaires and the Academy of Performing Arts. Of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there too!

The festival is open from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with the tree lighting ceremony beginning at 7:00 p.m.



## City of Victorville Residents Curbside Christmas Tree Pickup!

From January 6—January 17, 2014 – On Your Scheduled Service Day

### WHAT?



- ✓ Natural, un-flocked trees - remove all decorations, stands, wires, nails, etc. These trees will be turned into mulch.
- ✓ Flocked or artificial trees will also be accepted, but they will be collected as trash.

### HOW?



- ✓ Put your tree at the curb on your normal pickup day. DO NOT put your tree in plastic bags, in the trash or the recycle cart. Cut trees over 6' tall in half.
- ✓ Christmas trees will be collected by a separate truck that may stop by your house earlier or later than the trash or recycle trucks. Have your tree at the curb by 6 a.m.
- ✓ Note: This program is for residential customers on cart service only. No businesses or bin customers.

### WHEN?



- ✓ Put your tree out on your normal service day. Trees will be collected from January 6—January 17, on your pickup day.
- If you miss curbside pickup, residents of single-family homes can call Victorville Disposal Company at 760-245-8607 to schedule a FREE bulky item pickup of trees.

### NOTE!



- ✓ If you want to drop off your tree—Residents can drop off natural, un-flocked trees for **FREE** at American Organics at 20055 Shay Road, Victorville, through January 31. Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- For information, call American Organics at 760-246-7946.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Pyracantha*, Firethorn  
*Pyracantha crenatoserrata*

- Plant Form: Evergreen shrub
- Water Use: Low
- Mature Size: 15' tall and 10' wide
- Exposure: Full sun
- Bloom Time: March - May
- Native to: China
- Hardiness: Cold hardy to 10°F



*Pyracantha* holds landscape interest throughout the year with its generous clusters of white flowers in spring and colorful bunches of large, long-lasting berries in winter, just in time for holiday decorations. Many varieties are available to suit all tastes and applications, from prostrate groundcovers to erect shrubs that accept espalier training. All varieties grow fast and vigorously, with glossy green leaves, thorns, and fruit that varies in color, size, season, and duration. If berry color is important, cut the plants when they have fruit. Flowers and berries are produced only on growth that is at least one year old, so when pruning, leave some of the growth made each year so that you will have flowers and berries. Use as espaliers on walls or fences, as barrier plantings, screens, or hedgerows (or as groundcovers with low-growing varieties).



## HOLIDAY RECYCLING and GREEN TIPS

### Shopping Bags

Use reusable shopping bags. This will reduce the number of plastic bags that get trashed and minimize the amount of petroleum used to make them. If you receive plastic bags, remember to recycle the clean ones at your local grocery store.

### Wrapping Paper—Ribbons—Bows

If you use traditional gift wrapping, avoid wrapping materials that are not recyclable or reusable, such as foil, plastic or metallic papers. Look for recycled-content wrapping paper. And remember, ribbons and bows are reusable, but not recyclable.

### Decorations

When the season is over, pack up the holiday decorations to use next year. If, however, you were planning to replace them, consider giving those decorations and knick-knacks to a friend or family member who might enjoy them, or donate them to a local thrift store.

### Holiday Cards

If you send holiday cards, buy recycled-content cards and envelopes. Or, send your holiday greetings in electronic form. E-cards can be enhanced with sound and animation and create no physical waste.

### Shipping

When shipping a gift, use the foam peanuts from another package if possible, or better yet, use air-popped popcorn for packing. Return unwanted Styrofoam packing peanuts to a local UPS store.

### Lights

You can drop off broken or frayed strips of lights at the Victor Valley Materials Recovery Center (MRF). For info call (760) 241-1284.



## The Green Scene

This newsletter is produced by the Environmental Programs Division, Community Services Department, City of Victorville.

For more information, please contact:  
Water Conservation at 1-866-955-4426  
and/or Recycling at 760-955-8615.



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